

## *Office of the*

LOCKPORT MUNICIPAL BUILDING

One Locks Plaza

Lockport, New York 14094

Phone (716) 439-6665

Fax (716) 439-6668

**Michelle M. Roman**  
**MAYOR**

## *Mayor*

April 6, 2021

Congressman Chris Jacobs  
New York's 27<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
214 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Erie Canal Flight of Five Support Letter

Dear Congressman Jacobs:

This letter serves to offer my support of the City of Lockport's continued efforts to rehabilitate the Erie Canal Flight of Five Locks, an engineering marvel built as part of the Erie Canal required to allow boats to traverse the 60-foot elevation of the Niagara Escarpment, the same geological feature that created Niagara Falls. The Flight of Five Locks, made up of Locks 67, 68, 69, 70 & 71 from the Enlarged Erie Canal Era (1842 – 1918), is the largest intact section of the historic Erie Canal. The Flight of Five and its rehabilitation offers a unique opportunity to preserve and properly interpret the incredible history of the Erie Canal and its impact on the Western New York region, State of New York, and the United States of America, as well as utilize it as a catalyst for economic development within downtown Lockport.

Beginning in 2003, the City of Lockport has made the rehabilitation of the Flight of Five Locks the cornerstone of its strategy to become a world-class heritage tourism destination. After more than a decade of research, planning and successful fundraising, the first phase was completed in 2014, a \$3.1 million project, which included the rehabilitation of two of the five locks - Locks 69 and 70. That same year, the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council named Phase II of the Flight of Five project a "Regional Priority Project," and would later grant over \$1.3 million for its further rehabilitation. On September 28th, 2019, the completion of Phase II was celebrated with the rededication of Lock 68 during the sixth annual Locktoberfest fall festival. It marked the first time in more than 100 years that a boat locked through Lock 68.

Now that Phase I & II are completed, the Lockport Locks Heritage District Corporation perform historic locks demonstration during the tourism season through three of the five locks, interpreting the Flight of Five to residents and tourists. With additional investments in and around the Flight, in the area known as the Locks District, interpretive elements like the Lock Tenders Tribute monument, and a newly restored Locks District Museum, are helping to tell the story, not only of Lockport's rich industrial past, but of the people who worked and lived here. These additional investments continue

to leverage one of Lockport's finest assets to benefit the quality of life of citizens, as well as positively impact economic development in Lockport and the Western New York region. The opportunity remains, however, for an even more significant impact if the project is successfully completed.

Bergmann Associates, a nationally recognized engineering firm and consultants to the Lockport Locks Heritage District for the rehabilitation of the Flight of Five, estimates that to completely restore the Flight of Five, will cost \$14.3 million. Locks 67 and 71, the two remaining locks in the Flight of Five, have more difficult engineering and construction obstacles to overcome than the first three rehabilitated locks and are therefore costlier to restore than the first three. A fully rehabilitated, historically accurate Flight of Five series of locks would create an engineering and heritage tourism attraction like no other. Already, the Locks District is one of the only places in the world where historic and modern locks can be seen side by side. When the Flight is fully operational again, Lockport and WNY will have an attraction that would transform Lockport's downtown by annually drawing an estimated 230,000 visitors generating \$17 million in spending (Camoin & Associates, 2010).

We have seen successful communities transform that are, at their core, much like Lockport, throughout Western New York and across America. Public investment, coupled with a strong core of local investment has been the key to giving those communities new life. This is precisely what we have begun to see in Lockport – and why we believe so strongly that an investment in Lockport's Flight of Five is so critically important to our continued progress.

The Erie Canal Flight of Five Project is transformational from a community and economic development perspective. As we approach the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the original Erie Canal, the completion of this project will indeed receive tremendous national and international attention as we celebrate the significance of the Erie Canal on the development of this nation. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions or concerns. Thank you.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michelle M. Roman", followed by a horizontal line.

Michelle M. Roman  
Mayor  
City of Lockport

MMR/mal



April 6, 2021

Congressman Chris Jacobs  
New York's 27<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
214 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Jacobs:

On behalf of Destination Niagara USA, I am writing in support of the City of Lockport's continued efforts to rehabilitate the Erie Canal Flight of Five Locks. This is the largest intact section of the historic Erie Canal and the rehabilitation offers a unique opportunity to preserve and properly interpret the incredible history of the Erie Canal. This rehab project will also serve as a catalyst for economic development for downtown Lockport.

The City of Lockport has made the rehabilitation of the Flight of Five Locks the cornerstone of its strategy to become a world-class heritage tourism destination. After more than a decade of research, planning and successful fundraising, the first phase was completed in 2014, a \$3.1 million project, which included the rehabilitation of two of the five locks - Locks 69 and 70. That same year, the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council named Phase II of the Flight of Five project a "Regional Priority Project," and would later grant over \$1.3 million for its further rehabilitation. In 2019, the completion of Phase II was celebrated with the rededication of Lock 68. It marked the first time in more than 100 years that a boat passed through Lock 68.

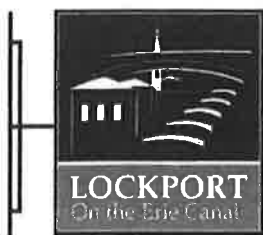
Our organization's mission is to expand the economic prosperity of Niagara Falls USA communities by generating individual and group visitation. With Phases I & II of the rehabilitation now complete and the Lockport Locks Heritage District Corporation offering tours during high season, we now have a greater marketing ability to draw visitors to Niagara County to spend more time and more money.

The Erie Canal Flight of Five Project is transformational from a community and economic development perspective. Any funding that can be secured to see this project through to completion would be tremendous. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

John Percy  
President & CEO





## Locks Heritage District Corporation

Greater Lockport Development Corporation Affiliate  
One Locks Plaza • Lockport, NY 14094



April 7, 2021

Congressman Chris Jacobs  
New York's 27<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
214 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Erie Canal Flight of Five – Letter of Support

Dear Congressman Jacobs:

I am writing this letter in support of the funding for the final phase of the rehabilitation project of the Erie Canal Flight of Five Locks. The history of this engineering wonder stands as one of the key components of the success of the Erie Canal and the impact it had on our nation's western expansion. The five locks allowed canal traffic to scale the 60' Niagara Escarpment and travel through to Buffalo and the Great Lakes. The wonder of this feat captured the country's attention then and can be a cornerstone of New York's heritage tourism programs far into the future, not to speak of the incredible opportunities for canal communities like Lockport along its way.

Since 2003, I have been on the Board of the Lockport Locks Heritage District (LLHD) with the mission to rehabilitate the one remaining, but long dormant, flight of five locks from the 1842 era canal enlargement. This effort was to serve as the basis for an economic development strategy to make the 'Flight of Five' and its supporting tourism attractions into a world-class heritage tourism destination.

Much has been accomplished over the almost two decades of research, planning, and fundraising. Three of the locks in the flight have been returned to working order and there are now exciting public demonstrations of their operation, in-season tours, a public art installation celebrating canal workers, and a newly established museum telling Lockport's part of the canal's story. All of this has led to great support from the local community as well as increased tourism and economic development in Lockport's downtown and canal districts.

As we look forward to the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Erie Canal in 2025, it makes completing the rehabilitation project of the Flight of Five all the more timely. Phase III, at a cost of \$14.3 million will complete the rehabilitation of all five locks, creating an historically accurate view to the past unlike any other. Additionally, alongside the historic locks is the

present day set of two locks – the only place in the world where two eras of canal history can be seen side-by-side.

What we have accomplished thus far proves that this project can be done and that its goals of tourism development and local economic development are attainable.

We ask for your support in helping us to reach our goal of full rehabilitation by 2025.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky L. Burns". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Becky L. Burns  
Lockport Locks Heritage District  
Secretary



***The History Center***

Niagara County Historical Society  
215 Niagara Street  
Lockport, New York 14094

Melissa Dunlap  
*Executive Director*

Melissa@NiagaraHistory.org April 7, 2021

Ray Wigle  
*EGDC Director*  
*Development Director*  
CanalDiscovery@yahoo.com

Ann Marie Linnabery  
*Assistant Director*  
*Education Coordinator*  
AnnMarie@NiagaraHistory.org

Alexa Gibney  
*Marketing Assistant*

Congressman Chris Jacobs  
New York's 27<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
214 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Erie Canal Flight of Five Support Letter

Dear Congressman Jacobs:

Terry C. Abrams  
*Curator Collections Manager*

*Board of Directors*

Thomas Dublinski  
*President*

Richard Maigret  
*Vice-President*

Michael Allport  
*Secretary*

Candace Wilson  
*Treasurer*

Jim Benoit

David Caldwell

David Kinyon

James Mucha

Susie Parker

Shannon Risk, PhD

Jerry Roberts

Henry Schmidt

Marietta Schrader

Karen Sherwood

John Shepard

The Niagara County Historical Society which includes the Erie Canal Discovery Center; is in support of the City of Lockport's continued efforts to rehabilitate the Erie Canal Flight of Five Locks. They are an engineering marvel built as part of the Erie Canal that allowed boats to traverse the 60-foot elevation of the Niagara Escarpment, the same geological feature that created Niagara Falls. The Flight of Five Locks, made up of Locks 67, 68, 69, 70 & 71 from the Enlarged Erie Canal Era (1842 – 1918), is the largest intact section of the historic Erie Canal. The Flight of Five and its rehabilitation offers a unique opportunity to preserve and properly interpret the incredible history of the Erie Canal and it is an economic driver in Lockport and the surrounding area with Heritage Tourism from around the United States and Internationally.

Beginning in 2003, the City of Lockport has made the rehabilitation of the Flight of Five Locks the cornerstone of its strategy to become a world-class heritage tourism destination. After more than a decade of research, planning and successful fundraising, the first phase was completed in 2014, a \$3.1 million project, which included the rehabilitation of two of the five locks - Locks 69 and 70. That same year, the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council named Phase II of the Flight of Five project a "Regional Priority Project," and would later grant over \$1.3 million for its further rehabilitation. On September 28th, 2019, the completion of Phase II was celebrated with the rededication of Lock 68 during the sixth annual Locktoberfest fall festival. It marked the first time in more than 100 years that a boat locked through Lock 68.

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The Erie Canal Flight of Five Project is transformational from a community and economic development perspective. As we approach the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the original Erie Canal, the completion of this project will indeed receive tremendous national and international attention as we celebrate the significance of the Erie Canal on the development of this nation. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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Melissa L. Dunlap  
Executive Director



April 6, 2021

Congressman Chris Jacobs  
New York's 27<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
214 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Erie Canal Flight of Five Support Letter

Dear Congressman Jacobs:

This letter serves to offer my support of the City of Lockport's continued efforts to rehabilitate the Erie Canal Flight of Five Locks, an engineering marvel built as part of the Erie Canal required to allow boats to traverse the 60-foot elevation of the Niagara Escarpment, the same geological feature that created Niagara Falls. The Flight of Five Locks, made up of Locks 67, 68, 69, 70 & 71 from the Enlarged Erie Canal Era (1842 – 1918), is the largest intact section of the historic Erie Canal. The Flight of Five and its rehabilitation offers a unique opportunity to preserve and properly interpret the incredible history of the Erie Canal and its impact on the Western New York region, State of New York, and the United States of America, as well as utilize it as a catalyst for economic development within downtown Lockport.

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Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joan G. Aul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joan" being more prominent.

Joan G. Aul  
Past Board Chair



**REID PETROLEUM CORP.**

100 West Genesee Street  
P.O. Box 987  
Lockport, NY 14095  
Ph: (800) 348-8400  
Fax: (716) 434-3170

April 7, 2021

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Thank-you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns.

Very Truly Yours,

Paul D. Reid  
CEO



## GRIGG LEWIS FOUNDATION, INC.

### Board of Directors:

Christa Caldwell, R. Thomas Weeks, Dan Wilson, Brian Costello  
Mary Murphy, Eric Connor, Paul Reid, Joan Aul

April 7, 2021

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New York's 27<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
214 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Congressman Jacobs:

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The Grigg Lewis Foundation, Inc. supports a request seeking federal funding to assist in the Flight of Five Project. If you need further testament to this wonderful project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Christa Caldwell,  
Board President



**NIAGARA COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
NIAGARA COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
175 HAWLEY STREET  
LOCKPORT, NY 14094-2470

**REBECCA J. WYDYSH**  
*Chairman*

**ALYSA T. MORAN**  
*Clerk*

(716) 439-7000  
(716) 439-7124 Fax

April 6, 2021

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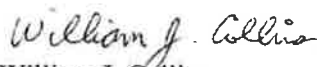
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Sincerely,

  
Rebecca J. Wydysh, Chairman  
Niagara County Legislature

  
William J. Collins  
12<sup>th</sup> District Legislator

  
Anthony J. Nemi  
11<sup>th</sup> District Legislator

  
Anita Mullane  
13<sup>th</sup> District Legislator



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The Erie Canal Flight of Five Project is transformational from a community and economic development perspective. As we approach the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the original Erie Canal, the completion of this project will indeed receive tremendous national and international attention as we celebrate the significance of the Erie Canal on the development of this nation. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Jessica L. Dittly  
Program Director  
Lockport Main Street Inc.  
mobile: (716)622-2526  
email: jessica.dittly@gmail.com



MICHAEL J. NORRIS  
Assemblyman, 144<sup>th</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

CHAIRMAN OF THE  
MINORITY CONFERENCE  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
Election Law Committee

COMMITTEES  
Judiciary  
Rules  
Transportation  
Ways and Means

April 7, 2021

Hon Chris Jacobs,  
8203 Main Street, Suite 2  
Williamsville, NY 14221

Dear Hon Jacobs:

I am writing to offer my support to a number of initiatives regarding the Erie Canal in the City of Lockport, specifically as it relates to the Flight of Five restoration project and the long term impact and benefit the completion of this project will have on Western New York and the Lockport community.

I've long seen the Flight of Five project as a regional economic development priority and believe that it is a natural fit within the Reimagine Canals Task Force mission objectives. As I am sure you will agree, the completion of the first phases of the Flight of Five has already greatly benefited not only the City of Lockport, but all of Niagara County and the Western New York region. A fully completed Flight of Five would build upon a premiere tourism attraction in downtown Lockport by bringing additional visitors annually, having a substantial economic spin-off impact for small businesses, shops, attractions and restaurants, increasing tax revenue for the state, county and local municipalities, and supplementing New York State's recent \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Funding which will all rejuvenate our downtown Lockport corridor and maintain a long term viability in this tourism and business sector.

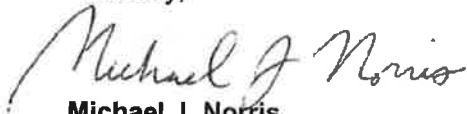
With the 200th Anniversary of the completion of the Erie Canal approaching, we must collectively take the critical steps to invest the necessary final funding through the Reimagine Canals program or through direct community enhancement aid. Especially in light of our current economic situation due to coronavirus, this project will provide jobs during the construction process and a real sense of enthusiasm for our Canal community to preserve our rich heritage and showcase it to future generations for decades to come. It would be extraordinary to celebrate the Bicentennial of the completion of the Erie Canal in 2025 with a landmark ceremony recognizing the Flight of Five full restoration.

As a lifelong Lockportian, I can personally attest that this project will have far-reaching positive impacts and instill confidence that brighter days are ahead for Lockport. That's why I so passionately urge you to give every consideration to making this matter a top priority for Federal Investment and work with State and local partners as well as the Reimagine Canal Task Force to include and fully fund this project.



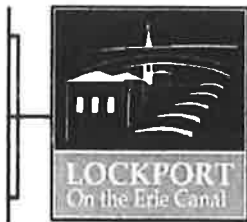
Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael J. Norris". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

**Michael J. Norris**  
**Member of Assembly**  
**144th District**

cc: Mayor Michelle Roman, City of Lockport  
David Kinyon, President, Lockport Locks Heritage Corporation  
Brian Smith, President, Greater Lockport Development Corporation



## Locks Heritage District Corporation

Greater Lockport Development Corporation Affiliate  
One Locks Plaza • Lockport, NY 14094



April 7, 2021

Congressman Chris Jacobs  
New York's 27<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
214 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Erie Canal Flight of Five Support Letter

Dear Congressman Jacobs:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support of the City of Lockport's continued efforts to rehabilitate the Erie Canal Flight of Five Locks, an engineering marvel built as part of the Erie Canal that enabled boats to traverse the 60-foot elevation of the Niagara Escarpment, the same geological feature that created Niagara Falls. The Flight of Five Locks, made up of Locks 67, 68, 69, 70 & 71 from the Enlarged Erie Canal Era (1842 – 1918), is the largest intact section of the historic Erie Canal. The Flight of Five and its rehabilitation offers a unique opportunity to preserve and properly interpret the incredible history of the Erie Canal and its impact on the Western New York region, State of New York, and the United States of America, as well as utilize it as a catalyst for economic development within downtown Lockport.

Beginning in 2003, the City of Lockport has made the rehabilitation of the Flight of Five Locks the cornerstone of its strategy to become a world-class heritage tourism destination. After more than a decade of research, planning and successful fundraising, the first phase was completed in 2014, a \$3.1 million project, which included the rehabilitation of two of the five locks - Locks 69 and 70. The Phase I project was made possible due to a Congressional appropriation secured by then-Congressman Tom Reynolds. That same year, the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council named Phase II of the Flight of Five project a "Regional Priority Project," and would later grant over \$1.3 million for its further rehabilitation. On September 28th, 2019, the completion of Phase II was celebrated with the rededication of Lock 68.

Now that Phase I & II are completed, the Lockport Locks Heritage District Corporation performs historic locks demonstration during the tourism season through three of the five locks, interpreting the Flight of Five to residents and tourists. Also during the summer months, our organization offers weekday walking tours to visitors. With additional


investments in and around the Flight of Five, in the area known as the Locks District, interpretive elements like the Lock Tenders Tribute Monument, and a newly restored Locks District Museum, are helping to tell the story, not only of Lockport's rich industrial past, but of the people who worked and lived here. These additional investments continue to leverage one of Lockport's finest assets to benefit the quality of life of citizens, as well as positively impact economic development in Lockport and the Western New York region. The opportunity remains, however, for an even more significant impact if the Erie Canal Flight of Five Project is successfully completed in full.

Bergmann Associates, a nationally recognized engineering firm and consultants to the Lockport Locks Heritage District for the rehabilitation of the Flight of Five, estimates that to completely restore the Flight of Five, it will cost \$14.3 million. Locks 67 and 71, the two remaining locks in the Flight of Five, have more difficult engineering and construction obstacles to overcome than the first three rehabilitated locks, and are therefore more costly to restore than the first three. A fully rehabilitated, historically accurate Flight of Five series of locks would create an engineering and heritage tourism attraction like no other. Already, the Locks District is one of the only places in the world where historic and modern locks can be seen side by side. When the Flight is fully operational again, Lockport and WNY will have an attraction that would transform Lockport's downtown by annually drawing an estimated 230,000 visitors generating \$17 million in spending (Camoin & Associates, 2010).

The Erie Canal Flight of Five Project is truly transformational. Successful communities across America that are much like Lockport have been transformed by collaborative efforts between the public and private sector that leverage their unique heritage assets as catalysts. Public investment, coupled with a strong core of local investment, have been the keys to giving those communities new life. This is precisely what we have begun to see in Lockport – and why we believe so strongly that an investment in Lockport's Flight of Five is so critically important to our continued progress.

Lockport's historic locks were an important component in the National Park's designation of our canal as a National Historic Landmark. As we approach the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the original Erie Canal, the completion of Flight of Five Project will indeed receive tremendous national and international attention, as we celebrate the significance of the Erie Canal on the development of this nation. Thank you for your consideration of my remarks.

Sincerely,

  
David R. Kinyon  
Chairman



April 8, 2021

Congressman Chris Jacobs  
New York's 27<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
214 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Erie Canal Flight of Five Support Letter

Dear Congressman Jacobs:

This letter serves to offer my support of the City of Lockport's continued efforts to rehabilitate the Erie Canal Flight of Five Locks, an engineering marvel built as part of the Erie Canal required to allow boats to traverse the 60-foot elevation of the Niagara Escarpment, the same geological feature that created Niagara Falls. The Flight of Five Locks, made up of Locks 67, 68, 69, 70 & 71 from the Enlarged Erie Canal Era (1842 – 1918), is the largest intact section of the historic Erie Canal. The Flight of Five and its rehabilitation offers a unique opportunity to preserve and properly interpret the incredible history of the Erie Canal and its impact on the Western New York region, State of New York, and the United States of America, as well as utilize it as a catalyst for economic development within downtown Lockport.

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Now that Phase I & II are completed, the Lockport Locks Heritage District Corporation perform historic locks demonstration during the tourism season through three of the five locks, interpreting the Flight of Five to residents and tourists. With additional investments in and around the Flight, in the area known as the Locks District, interpretive elements like the Lock Tenders Tribute monument, and a newly restored Locks District Museum, are helping to tell the story, not only of Lockport's rich industrial past, but of the people who worked and lived here. These additional investments continue to leverage one of Lockport's finest assets to benefit the quality of life of citizens, as well as positively impact economic development in Lockport and the Western New York region. The opportunity remains, however, for an even more significant impact if the project is successfully completed.

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Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

ISKALO DEVELOPMENT CORP.



Paul B. Iskalo  
President & CEO

PBI/jmk

